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### **Rapid Response Team Activated to Aid AT & T Employees**

HANNIBAL -- The state has activated its Rapid Response Team to help workers that will be laid off from AT & T in Hannibal. About 106 operators and managers will lose their jobs when the facility closes on April 5.

The Rapid Response team is composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board and the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations. The team responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist AT & T employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"We are doing everything we can to help workers who have been displaced as a result of the poor labor market conditions," Driskill said. "The staff members at the Missouri Career Centers work very hard in helping these employees find new jobs. The AT & T workers that have been displaced will be able to take advantage of free services such as preparing resumes, career counseling, and in some cases, training toward a new skill."

Other services provided by the Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center include interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers to explain how these services can help them find a new job. Three sessions will be held at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., and 1 p.m. on Feb. 26. Three more sessions are scheduled at 12, 2:30 and 5 p.m. on Feb. 27. All meetings will be held at AT & T.

Employers interested in hiring AT & T workers can call 1-800-877-8698.

Since 1983--when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established--more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training or re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response team can call DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or the Northeast Missouri Workforce Investment Board at 660-327-5125.